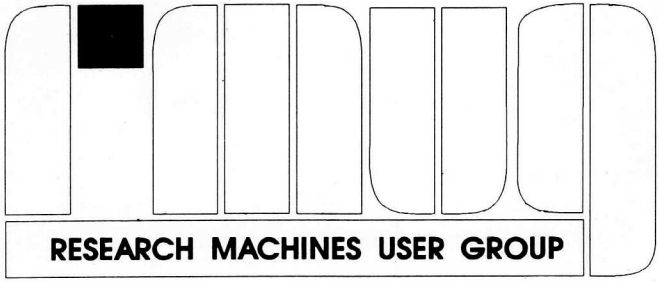
# RM User

Volume 9:6
March 1995



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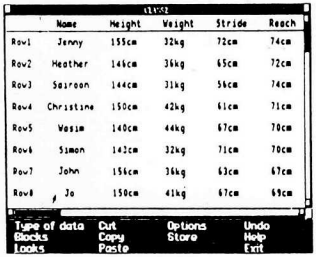

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Row3 | Sairoon | 144cm | 31kg | 56cm | 74cm |
| Row4 | Christine | 150cm | 42kg | 61cm | 71cm |
| Row5 | Wasim | 140cm | 44kg | 67cm | 70cm |
| Row6 | Simon | 142cm | 32kg | 71cm | 70cm |
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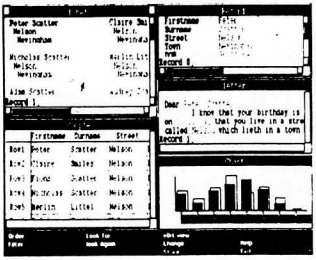

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# HelpLine

The User Group exists to help its members use the computers which they have.

The magazine is the main way in which we communicate with our members. If you find that it's not covering the areas you want to know about then phone someone listed at the back and let them know what you would like to see; the chances are that you won't be the only person who has the same needs.

Many of you (about 20%) are home users of Nimbus computers and we would like to help you. Do please phone any of the people whose numbers are listed at the back of the magazine and we will do our best to help.

You may find that you have a problem which you feel is too trivial for Customer Support or you may have a problem with which they can't help, perhaps because you have a non-standard setup for your equipment or you are using third-party equipment. This is the time when we may be able to help.

Remember that you can telephone the User Group members in the evening or at weekends when RM is shut (and, of course, you are just bound to hit problems). Also, RM don't claim to have great knowledge of products which they don't produce such as Excel or PageMaker. They can tell you how to install the packages on their equipment and how to get started but they cannot be expected to give you in depth support on using the packages. We, on the other hand, can. Most of the people whose phone numbers are listed at the back are using a range of software which is probably the same as yours on a daily basis. We may have met exactly the problem you have just encountered.

If you are in difficulty, please ring anybody on the Committee (numbers at the back) and you may also phone Tim Phillips on 0284 706623 (home number).

It is a great help if you are having a problem doing something using your computer if you can be next to it when you phone because it may then be possible to talk you through a solution over the phone.

If your problem is not urgent, or you think it may be difficult to explain over the phone, then do please write to the Editor with your query. I will either reply to you directly or pass your query on to a better person to solve it or publish your letter in the next magazine as a request for help.

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## Contents

Software Production Associates ..... 2
HelpLine ..... 3
Contents ..... 4
Deadlines for the next issues ..... 4
Missing a Magazine? ..... 4
News and Editorial ..... 5
The RM Roadshow ..... 7
Hints & Tips ..... 10
Multimedia Roundup ..... 14
RM Direct ..... 18
RM Direct ..... 19
Software Library ..... 20
Letters ..... 22
MWA ..... 25
The Upgrading Experience III ..... 26
Training Weekend ..... 27
Technical Tips ..... 28
The Internet ..... 30
Windows on RM Net 3.1 ..... 31
Your Magazine ..... 33
Advertising in the Magazine ..... 33
Membership Form ..... 34
Committee Members 1994/1995 ..... 35
FLO ..... 36

## Deadlines for the next issues

RM User 10:1 ..... 1 May 1995
RM User 10:2 ..... 16 June 1995

The date shown above is the ***latest*** date for copy for the magazine. You will normally receive the magazine about 2-3 weeks after the date shown.

## In The Next Issue

OS\2. AGM Minutes. Internet.

## Missing a Magazine?

Back issues of the magazine are available from the editor - please write for more details.

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# News and Editorial

## Eating my words

I have learned a great deal from producing 9.5 and I hope you will see some improvements in this issue. With hindsight I wish I had offered a reward for trainspotting for returning annotated copy showing the greatest number of errors. I should also be suffering from severe indigestion since I threaten my students with the option of eating any work they submit to me with errors that indicate they have failed to pass it through a spell checker. Judging by mebers and dyas, I fail this test - unless the gremlins that attacked 9.5 were even stronger than they seemed to be. I always assumed that the beauty of Postscript was that files set up for the same printer would port from one platform to another. Therefore I took what I thought was a step forward and took the magazine to the printer in the form of a file on disc. It wasn't until it was too late that I discovered that the styles of body text and editorial comment had been reversed. I am going to try again because I still think it is the right way to go. As a point that may be of technical interest, the problem occurred when we transferred the files onto a Performa at the printers. Later experiments suggest that tranferring to a Power Mac avoids the switch in styles that was, I think, the biggest problem. As you are reading this, you will know if it worked or not! There were other problems and I learnt lessons from most of them - except Stephen Sharrad's graphic! I will try to print it in this issue but I cannot even begin to explain where the first one went or how it got replaced with some text.

## AGM

I suspect that the wild weather of St Patrick's day put some of you off the idea of travelling to Stevenage the next day for the AGM. After my own experiences on Friday, I would rather not have been setting out on the Saturday but it turned out to be a beautiful day and the A1 was unusually peaceful. Only 14 people turned up but we definitely profited from an excellent presentation by Ian Burgess on being (pre)inspected for IT. Ian passed on to us the results and the ways in which he has benefited from the process. I think that it would be fair to say that he has transferred the main focus of his efforts from technical minutiae to promoting the appropriate use of IT across the curriculum. I suspect that he had already tried to do this (I know I have) and been stonewalled by the other departments. Now he has the weight of the inspection reports to assist in gaining their attention. Coincidentally, I went on a "How to survive inspection" course on Friday and, as I was leaving, one of our Senior Management Team asked me where I was going. When I answered, he went pale and said "We're not being inspected are we?" I said "no - but I wish we were"! I believe that the process is amazingly unwieldy and anything that distracts us from our teaching into constructing reams of paper work is not going to make me happy - but I


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do believe that the setting of high standards is a Good Thing and the fear of inspection can allow IT to reach departments that other incentives can't. There is an analogy here in the way that our students do or don't absorb our offerings. I support the delivery of IT via subject work since the skills are more likely to stick if they were applied to a useful task. In a similar way I have tried to tell staff about what IT can do for them and have run INSET days and so on. But all of this is of less weight than the grains of toner that trickle gently from the orifice of the great printer compared with the concentration that comes with an outside stimulus.

**World Wide Web**

The RMuser group has arrived! We have a web page, courtesy of RM. I hope to update it and include text from past issues. Please point your browser at:-

```
http://www.rmplc.co.uk/
  eduweb/sites/rmug/
  index.html
```

In the next issue I will have more articles about the internet - please feel free to comment and/or send in interesting sites.

**Money, money, money**

On a more mundane note, the accounts show that the training weekend is, to a certain degree, subsidising the magazine. This may not worry you but if it does, the only positive solutions are to get more RMusers (highly desirable) or to get more advertising in the magazine. The committee are trying to work out a formula for paying a commission to members who bring in new adverts. If you are interested please contact Myfanwy or any committee member.

**And so to bed**

As I said before, I hope this issue is better than my first effort. I still haven't managed to steal enough time to really plan ahead (I suspect that there may be just a smidgen of sympathy from you) and this issue (9.6) will not reach you as early as I had hoped. However, the lag between wish and reality is being reduced and hopefully this trend will continue as I can spend less time learning and more time producing copy. I have had a request for a return to Steve's habit of including What's New in the editorial. I thought that it had just moved slightly since it appeared in his BETT column but I am very aware that there is no equivalent is this issue. I am contacting those sources that had Steve on their mailing lists which will help a bit but perhaps you will join me in encouraging Steve to keep writing What's New as a regular column. I have had a very strong reaction to my comment about considering A4 format - to tell me not to do it! Again, please comment if you like. I had hoped to get more graphics into this issue but, as you will see, without success. In fact I sacrificed some of Mary's illustrations. I will definitely attack this challenge in the future.

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# The RM Roadshow

*Mary Mabey*

Last term you may have received an invitation to an RM event called "IT strategy for the New National Curriculum" - a series of one day events held all round the country. I went with our Head of IT to the first of these events which was held at Heathrow. The day did not start well because we went to school first to sort out the cover teacher and make sure that the network was okay. Leaving just before 9am we were confident that we could get to Heathrow by tube before the start time of 10.30. This proved to be impossible because LT seemed unable to provide any tubes going the whole way and we got frozen waiting 20 minutes at Acton in gusts of sleet. Our tempers hardly improved when we arrived at Heathrow and our RM map failed to locate the hotel. I asked the way from the Tourist Information desk and was informed that there was a courtesy bus service to the hotel (not mentioned on RM's map). We finally arrived at 10.55, frozen, wet and fed up. Hardly in a receptive mood for INSET. The amazing thing is that within minutes we were engrossed in the keynote address by the NCET. Was it because he said the magic words, "there is no need to amass huge paper mountains to prove the IT capability of every student?" We started to listen with great concentration. The second session was a demonstration of RM Internet by David Hunt who promised that there would be local / standard rate telephone connections available in the next few weeks for most of the SE. He explained that RM were keen to hear of useful addresses from those already familiar with Internet but showed us some interesting material on the Kobe earthquake and project work by Patch American High School in Germany on the Berlin Wall and the D day landings. RM are aware that the main problems of Internet in school are the on-line costs and the danger of students finding unsuitable material. The cost problem can be solved using a monitoring system which severs the connection at an agreed limit and the RM software filters out a number of information services which are known to provide pornographic or undesirable material. The overall impression of this session was there is an awful lot out there to explore and its currently "up to you" to find the material for yourself. Those who discover relevant information or make contacts with other schools should then share this knowledge with everyone else via the RM service. David admitted that he was hooked and spent hours searching for material but he was willing to admit that teachers do not have that sort of free time to invest in the hope of finding something relevant. At this point we had lunch. This was truly excellent and RM are to be congratulated. Staggering back into the conference room after this I

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attended the multimedia networking session with Russell Prue. It proved to be a veritable "tour de force." I'm sure that Russell has missed his vocation. He really ought to be an actor or a comedian. He pointed out the large numbers of Primary schools currently using multimedia machines. When these pupils enter Year 7 their expectations will be very high and he suggested that secondary schools should wake up to the usefulness of multimedia as a curriculum tool. A point which he proved by using Encarta, Bodyworks, World Atlas and the OED to answer a number of questions. He sang the praises of the RM multimedia network which includes a 16 user licence for Encarta- the only network licence in existence for this product. Students can paste information and graphics from any of the CDs directly into their own user area using any terminal in the school. (You will obviously not receive sound unless you have a sound card at the receiving terminal and the graphics display will be limited by the capability of the individual machine) Although we intend to introduce the RM 14 drive system at Islington Green I was not too pleased with his other arguments for taking such a step. "Because the library is closed when you need it .... because the librarian may not have the technical....." I took exception to these statements. I would argue that networking is the most cost effective way to run most multimedia titles, not those with large chunks of video, but the most effective use of this networking is in the library where research/flexible learning/Internet access can take place within a curriculum context supported by both the subject teacher and the librarian. It's a good job Russell did not speak the following day at Computers in Libraries (CIL'95) to the 200 school librarians there to discuss new developments in IT. They would have torn him limb from limb!" However I suppose one has to forgive Russell as he is extremely entertaining and really knows his subject. He definitely won the "quote of the day award" for his comments on the heart as shown in Bodyworks,.... "mmmm well, the aorta, I wonder what that does, mm must be important, looking at the picture again with the three arteries coming out of the top,.... "yes, anything with three exhaust pipes coming out of it must be important." The penultimate session was on Leasing and the school plan by Ian Todd (a canny Scot of course) brought us firmly back to reality. We had seen all the wonders on offer so how could we possibly afford to buy them? Ian talked us through the advantages (to us ... oh yes... and RM of course!) of making an annual financial committment to IT development over several years. This would give you the equipment immediately and allow you to plan curriculum IT delivery for next year knowing precisely what equipment will be on site. Your school will get used to putting a certain amount aside each year for development without you being forced to go back and re-negotiate each March. At the end of the lease the equipment can be bought for a nominal sum and it is

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possible to review and re-negotiate the lease. Various figures were quoted showing that some schools spent £24 per pupil on IT and had a 4:1 ratio of equipment to pupils. Most delegates sat slightly stunned but didn't like to admit the true state in their own schools until safely on the train where it emerged that most had a ratio of 1:20! Fully equipped with the arguments for painless financing of our IT Utopias we repaired for tea which was clearly designed to fortify us through the concluding address by Mike Fischer, chief executive of RM. I have never seen Mike speak before and was impressed that RM clearly have someone in charge who actually understands education and is clearly committed to supporting ways which will improve basic numeracy and literacy through the use of IT. He tried gazing into a crystal ball to predict where IT would be in 10 years from now. He is keen on the idea of Integrated Learning (ILS) because of the "2 minute barrier." In a 30 minute lesson with a class of 25 or more pupils the teacher can only spare a maximum of 2 minutes for each pupil (that does not allow any time for discipline). It has already been proved that ILS keeps students on task for 90% of the time. How can this be harnessed to help Yr7 students where 30% are known to be poor readers. If they reach Yr8 still unable to read they will never succeed. He went on to discuss what he saw as the future role of RM in schools. This includes helping schools to plan and install complex equipment and publicising examples of good practice which other schools can follow. He referred to the "superHypeway" saying that Internet was like the Kalahari Desert. "there are lots of gems out there but you don't want to spend the time out there mining them." In an ideal future RM would do the prospecting and then let schools know where they should dig for information. This would be far more cost effective than 1000 schools simultaneously trying to find the same information. Our pupils will work in a world dominated by the use of electronic communications and this will bring about a number of changes in teaching and learning. Teachers may deliver a lesson electronically to 2 classes in separate locations, projects may be undertaken on a global basis. Communication skills, electronic information, and multimedia will become increasingly important both at school and in the home - a sentiment echoed at CIL the following day where NCET openly asked if teachers were aware how much their role would change in the next ten years. At present we apparently have "the most IT literate pupils leaving school in the developed world," will we be able to cope with the changes in learning and teaching which this will inevitably bring? It was a very interesting and worthwhile day out. Although the sales force was there in strength, the seminar sessions were informative on an educational and curriculum level and remarkably free of salesmanship. We thought it excellent value for money (FREE!... Don't miss it if you get the chance to go)


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# Hints & Tips

*Steve Rochford*

**Time control on Net 3**

Whenever you make changes to Net 3 such as creating a user or changing a password you have to shut down and restart the server for this to take effect. It's obviously not normally possible to shut it down during the daytime because losers use their work so the simplest thing to do is to have a time switch which turns the server off at some time after everyone has gone home and turns it back on early in the morning. Having decided this then it would be nice if you could make the server do other maintenance tasks when it starts up - if you put something like rmtree del c:*.bak in the autoexec.bat file on the server boot disc then you could wipe all those unwanted files automatically every night. The problem with this is that if the server has to be stopped for any reason during the day then when it restarts it will take a long time to restart because it's wiping old files. The way round this is to have a program in the autoexec file which checks the time and then only runs the cleanup routine if it's a night time start-up. I've written a short program to do this; it's available on the RM bulletin board as timechek.zip or from me if you send a disc - it's very simple to use and comes with a readme file to explain what to do.

**Putting files in a user directory**

Sometimes when I'm setting a test I want to make sure that pupils have the same file to load and work on. One way of doing this is storing it somewhere on drive P: and letting them load from there. This has two disadvantages associated with it: you can't just use File Save to save the work but you must use File Save As and it causes problems with Excel (versions 2 to 4) because the default mode causes sharing violations even when the files are set to be read only on a read only drive. The alternative is to copy the file so that it appears in a user's own directory. You can then just say "Open file called FRED" and they open it as if they'd saved it themselves and can save it as they normally would by using File Save. This sounds easy but you obviously don't want to copy the file 150 times to each user's directory! Bring in a batch file and some formulae in Excel. What follows is written for NetLM but could be reasonably easily edited for Net 3. It also assumes that each pupil in a year group belongs to a separate LM group. In my school the group names are decided by the year in which they join the main school; INT94 is the group of pupils which joined in '94 and are in Year 7 while INT88 is the group which is currently in Year 13 having joined in September '88. Log on as Admin and at a DOS prompt type

```
net admin \\serverx1 /c net
  group int94 > n:\int94.bat
```

(where serverx1 will be replaced with the name of your PDC and int94 is the group in which you are interested). You should see nothing

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happen (but your station may beep if the server is busy; this is not a problem!) and then the prompt will reappear. Exit from DOS and load Excel. Use File Open to get the file you just created - it will look something like this:

```
Groupname   INT94   Comment
 Members ----------------
 ----   AA1988   ACD1636
 AGTH1637
```

but with many more lines of User IDs. Finally there is a "Command completed successfully" line. Delete the first 5 rows and the last row to leave just the IDs. You are trying to make a file which looks something like:

```
for %%a in (AA1988 ACD1636
 AGTH1637)  do  copy  %1
 r:\int94\%%a
```

so that you can type

```
int94 n:\test1.doc
```

and it will copy the file n:\test1.doc to all user directories. First of all, get rid of some of the surplus spaces. Choose Formula Replace from the menu and type 6 spaces in the find what box and 1 space in the replace with box. Click the Replace All button. Now widen column A to show all the text. In cell B1 type the formula

```
="for %%a in (" & A1 & ") do
 copy %1 r:\int94\%%a"
```

and press Enter. (Note that this assumes that each user in this year group has a home directory which is r:\int94\<username>. If yours are simply r:\<username> then leave out the group name. Fill this formula down to the bottom of the data in column A. Highlight this copied data in column B and click in cell C1. Choose Edit Paste Special and click the values button then OK. Now delete columns A and B. Finally save your work; make sure that you save it as a text file, not an Excel file. That's it! If you don't group your users in groups for each year then there are ways round it provided that there is some logic to your user names. For example, if you make a username with the year of entry as the first two characters then you can do something like:

```
dir  r:\94*.*  /w  /ad  >
 n:\int94.bat
```

in place of the net group stage at the start. Load the file into Excel, delete the "rubbish" and use Formula Replace to replace the [ with nothing and then the ] with nothing and then carry on as before.

### Making Groups

If you haven't added users to a group and want to do so at a later date then User Manager can be used but is rather tedious; you have to scroll through the list of usernames, clicking on the ones that should join the new group. It's easy to do this if you have names that cluster together but very messy otherwise. A way round it is to create the group in User Manager and then add the users from a batch file. Create the batch file in the way described above but the formula that goes in column B will be:

```
="for %%a in (" & A1 & ") do
 net admin \\serverx1 /c net
```


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```
group int94 %%a /add"
```

When you run the batch file it executes the command net admin \\serverx1 /c net group <groupname> <username> for each user in turn.

**Space Management**

XTree Gold continues to be my favourite utility program for helping with network management. The following hints are based on the things I do every few days to tidy up my network. As I mentioned before, all my user directories are grouped in year groups and this makes management much easier. Get to a DOS prompt (if you can do this at a station which uses Doslogon then you will have more memory available for programs and this is important for XTree) and type

```
xtgold r:\
```

to start the program and log the root of drive R: Now move to the year group to manage and press * to log all directories below this. Now press F to specify the files to look at and type

```
*.bak *.tmp *.asd *.$* ~$*.*
```

and press Enter. Press G for a global view and then ALT F twice to see the time and date stamp on each file. Finally press ALT S D to sort into date order. Press CTRL T to tag all the files and End to move to the bottom. Untag any files which are being worked on now (look at the time stamp; files with ~$ at the start or ASD at the end are Word's work files -you mustn't delete them if they are being used). Press CTRL A and then type -H -R and press Enter to set the files to be read-write and unhidden. Finally press CTRL D then N to delete them all. That takes a lot longer to describe than to do; XTree helps as well because the next time you go to choose the File Specification you can just press F and then the up arrow to look at the last file specs you used. I now do a similar process looking for .EXE .COM .BAT .DLL files. I would expect to find very few of these except for those pupils who write their own programs in Visual Basic or C. If you have no programmers then you can safely delete all such files otherwise it's best to make sure that you're not going to delete someone's work. Press ALT S U to leave the files unsorted; it actually shows them grouped by username so you can quickly see which directory the files are in (if you don't know the username then press X at any time. XTree puts you at a prompt which is in the user's directory. Type Net Who followed by the username (which you can read from the prompt) to find out the real name of the user. Press ESC to return to XTree.) Finally I look at pictures with the file specs *.bmp *.lbm *.pcx *.gif *.tif *.eps. XTree can look at most of these (just press V to view the picture) but I'm mainly worried about size; some of the pupils create massive files! To do this press ALT S S to sort in size order. I automatically delete any file bigger than 1Mb unless I know that it really is necessary (files that big may have been created seriously but on our 286s it's not possible to work sensibly with them so they go!) Now depending on how

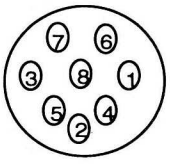
short of space I am I sort into date order and get rid of files older than a certain age (the age depends on the year group; year 7 don't really need to keep work beyond the end of the current exercise or project - perhaps a month - while year 11 may need stuff from 12 months or more ago if it's coursework)

**Lanspool**

This now works well for me - provided that you don't try and use it on a 286 with 2Mb of RAM you should also have no problems! It also seems much happier on Doslogon stations (I've just changed a lot of my stations to Doslogon; the kids regard this as a significant upgrade because they know that the blue screen stations don't crash!). What I can't do is send a separator page to the printer if it's using Lanspool. RM's notes say that this is not supported; the Intel book says that you can do it. I can't - does anyone know why it doesn't work? (I want to be able to send a separator page which just includes the control codes to put a laser printer back to portrait mode for DOS programs that don't do it themselves!)

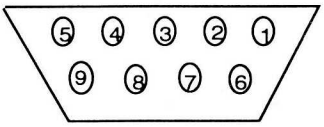
*I use Windows for Workgroups running off a local hard disc for file maintenance. I tried Xtree for Windows but gave it up because it was too slow. There are two small programs that I find invaluable, Fmview and Dropper. They are both shareware. Fmview provides the view facility that Steve mentions in Xtree but from File Manager. You simply press F9 and a window instantly pops up showing the contents of the file. It will do this even if the file is a spreadsheet, zipped file or a common graphic format. I think it opens a window even faster than Xtree for DOS but I might be wrong! It takes a little bit longer to show you a .bmp file. I use it to mark work. I use File, Search to find all the files with the name I have told the students to use. Then I open Excel with a mark sheet and have it side by side with the File Manager Search results. As I click on each student's file, the contents are displayed in an Fmview window at the top of the screen. Dropper allows you to drag any .exe file onto the desktop where it becomes a tile with the program's icon on it. If you then drag a file onto the tile, the program will launch with the file loaded. I know you could get a similar effect by double clicking but I don't always want the file in the latest version of a program - or sometimes even in the program that created it.*

*This is Stephen Sharrad's diagram from the last issue.*




6NC

| Pin | connected to | Pin |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | to | 3 |
| 2 | to | 8 |
| 3 | to | 6 |
| 4 | to | 5 |
| 5 | to | 1 & 2 |
| 7 | to | 4 |
| 8 | to | 9 |

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# Multimedia Roundup

*Mary Mabey*

Some excellent disks have been released in the past few months. So many, that it is difficult to select which to review. We will concentrate on 3 or 4 new titles in each issue and give suggestions for their use in the curriculum. The prices given are only guides. You need to shop around between suppliers because special promotions, bundles etc can cut the RRP by a third. If you want information about Acorn and MAC disks suitable for education you might find School Library 2000 which is sent to all secondary school librarians useful. Check to see if there is a copy in your school. The subscription is £15pa and the magazine covers all aspects of IT in the school library. Details from 01865 730275.

**Ancient Lands - Microsoft. Ages 8-Adult**

A veritable tour de force of the life and times of the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. As Year 7 is currently involved in a study of the Romans the disk is red-hot all day long! It is a typical glossy Microsoft product with well designed, user friendly screens, excellent graphics and sophisticated search mechanism. It requires a full 4MB RAM to run successfully, (8MB is better) and speakers or headphones to replay the substantial number of integral sound files. If you only have 4 MB of RAM you will find that it is slow and your "helpful angels" will install the disks' colourful wallpaper and screen savers so that your system grinds to a standstill! Ideally you would have one student using headphones at each computer but as this is an entirely unrealistic use of valuable resources you will no doubt sigh with relief when you learn that there is an option to turn off both the background sounds and the narration. The narration relates information which is not available as text on the screen. It is also used to narrate the Guided tours.

The opening screen leads directly to a location map of Egypt, Rome and Greece. You select the country of your choice and then choose from the following icons:

**People and Politics**
**Monuments and Mysteries**
**Work and play Guides**

The guides vary from an elderly Roman senator to a young female slave girl, from the daughter of an Egyptian embalmer to a high priestess, from the goddess Hera to Alexander the Great. Each has an appropriate English voice-over to guide the user on a tour. They immediately "grab the attention." Children quickly identify with the character of the young embalmer or the slave girl, listening to the commentary and following the pre-determined trail. So how does this differ from a video which is also a sequence of sounds and images? The answer is that there is always

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text on the screen ( not the same as the spoken text) and the user is invited to interact with the disk by choosing from hotwords, clicking on pictures or arrows for more information. At any time it is possible to jump into another aspect of a subject, retrace a step, save to the clipboard or abandon the pre-ordained tour to follow your own inclinations. Some of our students are now creating their own multimedia book on the Romans in MM-Box showing just how successful this project has been. A few are now exploring other areas of interest, notably the Egyptian mummies and the Olympic games. This disk is worth its weight in gold and supports research in a wide selection of related areas.

In addition it could inspire students to write a play about life in these times from the viewpoint of one of the "guides" - a Roman slave or gladiator perhaps? The possibilities are amazing. This is an excellent disk, definitely in the "top ten" educational CD-ROMs.

Microsoft Ancient Lands costs from £33 Needs MMPC, ideally with 8M

**The Ultimate Human Body - Dorling Kindersley. Ages 8-Adult**

This program is divided into three sections:

**Body machine**
**Body organs**
**Body systems**

Body Organs deals with three zones: head and neck, chest and abdomen. A click on the appropriate region reveals what lies below the surface of the skin. You can perform a most gruesome dissection in the head region removing eyes, nose, brain, tongue, ears, larynx, windpipe, oesophagus and throat. The result is quite frightening, but a single click will restore each organ to precisely the correct location. (There is no element of user choice in this exercise, a shame, as it would have made a useful learning feature if students could have relocated organs themselves - dare I suggest that this is an opportunity for DK to design a "game" in the next edition perhaps?) Ample opportunities are provided to research more information about each organ. After removing the brain you could delve sideways into optical illusions, sleep patterns, sight.....The possibilities are vast. Body Machine provides animated examples showing how joints move, a sequence on how food is digested, the process of hearing etc. There are 3 animations illustrating the chemical make up of the body. Unfortunately it is impossible to keep the completed diagram on screen with the accompanying text! This is not very helpful. Why provide the information and then snatch it away? It devalues the title to the level of "toy" or "plaything" if animation is used merely for visual effect not as integral to the provision of information. Body Systems includes respiratory, circulatory, skeletal, reproductive, muscular, urinary, lymphatic, hormonal, digestive and nervous systems. The reproductive section includes diagrammatic illustration of fertilisation, gestation, birth and puberty. There are excellent

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close-ups of sperm impregnating an egg and animations showing the development of the foetus and the birth process. I'm not too sure why the heading "male and female system maps" (must have been a programmer's idea!) were chosen to head the sections concerning diagrams of the male and female sexual organs but their titles will no doubt initially inhibit inquisitive lower school voyeurs from finding the "juicy bits." Even when they do, they will find no photographs, only disembodied diagrams.

Coverage of the subject is detailed and well illustrated, especially the electron microscope images of internal organs. The user interface is simple and an efficient scrolling index is always available. It is definitely an excellent resource for Biology, PE, (muscles, skeleton, body functions-heart, lungs) PSE (Sex education) and general studies. However there are some problems: both the voice-over and the spelling are wholly American so oesophagus is spelt esophagus, litre is liter and fibre is fiber and why call the trachea the windpipe? There is no mention of trachea anywhere in the scrolling index, not even a cross reference.

The quality of the present disk is unquestionable. I'm confident that DK will soon issue an "Anglicised" edition which will answer most of my reservations. If they could also include a short section on contraception and the effect of drugs on the body this would be an absolutely indispensable disk for all schools, not merely highly desirable!

The cost is around £59 The disk requires: 386SX or higher 4MB RAM 256 SVGA Windows 3.1 or higher Soundcard, speakers.

**Primary Focus**

You could use of either of the disks reviewed above for younger users providing that you accept two limitations:

1. The text is aimed at adults so much will be inappropriate to the needs of slow readers 2. Ultimate Human Body uses American spellings and pronunciation

However there are an increasing number of good British disks now coming onto the market for 5-11 year olds. Two are reviewed below:

**My First Incredible Amazing Dictionary: Dorling Kindersley. Ages 5-11**

This is absolutely excellent. From the cheerful opening screen the quality and attraction of this disk is apparent. It uses English spelling and pronunciation everywhere. The user can check the spelling or meaning of individual words or use the disk to broaden vocabulary by leaping from a word such as aeroplane to related words. There are several screens of associated words and pictures eg: "At the airport" which includes - runway, pilot, luggage, helicopter. The design is in bright clear colours, the typeface is bold and each definition can be heard clearly spoken aloud by a child or adult. This versatile title comes complete with spelling games and animations to encourage effort. It is so good that it

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is pointless to waste space writing more about it. I unreservedly recommend this disk. Please get a copy and try it for yourself, I'm sure that you will not be disappointed! It is suitable for very young children of 4/5 upwards but will continue to be useful for poor readers in Junior classes. We are now using it for an ESL secondary pupil who is totally illiterate and she loves it.

The cost is around £32- £35

**Count and Add, Hooray for Henrietta, Henrietta's Book of Spells and Spellbound! Lander software. Ages 5-Adult**

A veritable compendium of material, completely and unashamedly British, bubbling with fun, addictive, entertaining but wholeheartedly educational. These programmes come from the "good old days" of BBC computing. I discovered them about 3 years ago when they were around for RM186's and now they have bloomed again in CD-ROM format. Obviously the interfaces are not slick and flowing in the MS image but this does not seem to matter. I'm using them with 11-16 year olds in the library of my inner city school. It is the most constantly desired disk and the only one which has the dubious notoriety of being the subject of attempted theft. In fact they were disturbed in the act and pushed disk and caddy back into the machine upside down. This jammed the machine and there were a number of nail biting days while LETTS freed and tested machine and disk before we were able to breath a sigh of relief and start using them again. I have 3 school-phobic boys who literally fall over themselves to stay in the library to use these programmes. They team up with more able students to play hangman and delight in testing skills of numeracy against the clock. It is possible to introduce your own vocabulary lists (why not use French and German vocabulary?) and teachers/parents can pre-set the level of difficulty. I defy you to distinguish some of the screens in Spellbound from those in the local arcade. Several times I've been caught out wondering if some bright spark has sneaked a pirate disk into school but realised just in time that it's "that game disk, you know the one Miss, the one where you shoot the letters." So the pupils think it's a game, but the staff are delighted at the amount of voluntary "learning" being undertaken outside the classroom. I thoroughly recommend this disk for both home and school. If your offspring keep demanding computer games and you will only buy educational software this seems like the ideal compromise solution!Details from: Lander Software 0800 403040

NB: All prices quoted exclude VAT and postage. Some firms offer enticing bundles of disks and others offer free gifts such as Dorling Kindersley books with the disk. Good prices are available from Multimedia Solutions 0113 234 2528 who are going to put their catalogue out on Internet in May. Other competitive suppliers include Cambridge CD-ROM 01449 774658 and Education Interactive 01425 272235.


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# Software Library Volume 16

*Glenn Taylor*

I have assembled a disk containing a variety of different types of software and unlike previous disks this software is provided on a High Density (i.e. 1.44Mb) disk. This disk is available from me (address at the back of the magazine) at a cost of £1.50 to cover materials and postage.

**Volume 16 [March 95]**

\pfe This subdirectory contains an excellent Windows text-editor which is vastly superior to Notepad. Unlike the latter it is not restricted to files under 64K in size, being limited only by the amount of memory and is thus ideal (for example) for viewing NetLM audit files. Create a subdirectory on your hard drive and copy the file PFEWIN.EXE to it. After this, run the program pfewin.exe which is a self-extracting archive file which will occupy about 800K when expanded. PFE [Programmers' File Editor] is a public domain program which needs Windows 3.1.

\chemical Contains two related programs, WCHEM.EXE and CHEMVIEW.EXE. WCHEM.EXE is a public domain Windows 3.x chemistry program to create molecules by selecting atoms from the periodic table and specifying their bonding methods. Not being a chemist I don't fully understand this program but it would appear that (amongst other things) you can subject these atoms to temperature variations and watch them combine. The software probably requires at least A-Level chemistry ability to get the most from it, but then I'm not the best judge. CHEMVIEW.EXE is a DOS program which will display molecules created and saved by WCHEM and allow them to be rotated in the x,y,z plane. These molecules show the links between their component atoms rather like the "wobbly molecule models" which I remember from O-Level chemistry many years ago and although the program seems capable only of finding datafiles from within its own subdirectory it nevertheless could be useful as a "guess the mystery molecule" exercise for GCSE/A-level students.

\frntpage Have you got colleagues who swear by Front Page Extra? I swear at it...largely because of its incredibly slow printing speed. The two files in this subdirectory are Word for Windows files which I wrote in an attempt to wean recalcitrant staff away from FP Extra. FRNTPAGE.DOC is the template which sets up the framework for a two-column front page with a title/date/price/date and cross-heading, and its use is exemplified by the file FRNTINST.DOC which contains instructions for using the former. Print this second one out first to get a feel for what it does.

\classify Many moons ago our science department used a program called BRANCH on a BBC micro which was able to classify creatures or objects by asking yes/no questions. This subdirectory contains

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CLASSIFY.EXE which is a simple program (warts and all) which I wrote to do a similar job. The user enters a list of up to sixteen objects and is invited to give sufficient questions with yes/no answers to enable them to be uniquely classified. The user "thinks" of an object and the computer will "guess" which one it was.

\utils This directory contains further subdirectories containing a few odds and sods (particularly the latter) which I have produced over the years and which may be of use to network managers.

\menutree This is a Net3 utility which will accept an RM "blue screen" menu file as a parameter and explode it to give a tree-like listing of its contents. I do not know whether RM have changed the format of these files but it certainly worked on Net3.0 and earlier. The syntax for this program is: menutree filename [where filename is the name of a blue-screen (.MCD) menu file].

\mtsldump This is a NetLM utility which will scan an MTSL file (or files) to extract the plain text programming instructions and either display them, print them, or put them in an ASCII file. Wildcards are allowed in the file-spec passed to the program and this makes it more useful than using MINSTALL supplied by RM. This was written so that I could have a complete text listing of all my MTSL scripts (just in case!) before my schoolís recent upgrade to NetLM 2.0 . Just type MTSLDUMP for information about its syntax.

\usrlabel All our pupils have their own network IDs and passwords which I produce by passing information from SIMS (the school's pupil database) to a pro-forma Superbase file which mostly does the allocation of names and PIN numbers. To disseminate this to 240 new Y7 pupils is rather daunting and so USRLABEL.EXE takes a CSV file produced by Superbase (but anything else would equally work) and prints the details onto individual address labels on an Epson LQ dot-matrix. The CSV file requires three fields per line containing Pupil's full name, network user ID and password (in this order). Type USRLABEL with no parameters for syntax info. A text file called USRLABEL.CFG contains intelligible configuration settings which can be amended for different types of label. \libnotes This subdirectory contains details of the RMUG Software library. LIBRARY.DOC is in Word for Windows (V2.0) format LIBRARY.TXT is in ASCII text Future Directions In a recent edition of RM User I invited suggestions about how members felt the Software Library should develop. To date the response has been a nice round number: yes, zero. Does this mean that there is no interest at all? If you do have an opinion or suggestion then please contact me or, indeed, air your views in the magazine. Equally, if you are sitting on some files which other members could benefit from then send them to me: don't worry about reinventing wheels as there will always be a market for them!

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# Letters

Dear David,

Have received RM User V9:5 Well Done, I really do not know how a teacher can do the amount of work that such a publication requires.

If you want a comment, when you get as old as I am it is a strain to see faint italic. I much prefer for example the typeface on P26, first paragraph Downloads.

Could I request a short article on the IPX protocol, good enough for a 6th form general studies lesson. Communications cannot take place without protocols so we should know something about them. I understand (I may be wrong) that our LM network uses the IPX protocol.

Best wishes for the future,

Peter Butt

PS tried to send to your eworld address yesterday as per page 5 of vol 9:5 but got a rejection slip from their postmaster

*I do appreciate the encouragement! I have explained elsewhere what happened to the styles of the text and I hope I won't be sued for R-S-eye strain. (Sorry, it's the long hours you know!) I have also mentioned that I have dropped my eworld email address. Is there anyone out there who might write an article on IPX for me?? Is there anybody out there . .*

## It's my life!

Hitting forty is a traumatic time for anyone, and last April my wife bought me what she (and I) thought was probably only a toy. This toy is now like a third arm (and certainly compensates for the effect of age on the memory). Small, dark grey and opening like a clam, it's a Psion 3a (512K model). I would be more than lost without it now. It has replaced my diary, the rest of my filofax and encourages me to note things down when before I'd try to remember, but normally fail. I even remembered my wedding anniversary last year!! On its own it is a useful device, but to maximise the potential you need a link to a PC (or Mac, or horror of horrors, an Archimedes). I initially bought the printer lead but since acquiring the PC link I've had very little use from that. You'd be better putting the money towards the PC link and a mains power unit. If you only have one serial port free and you use a modem you'll also need a data switch box to save you fumbling round the back of your machine whenever you switch systems and you'll definitely want easy access to the Psion link. The released software with the link is ok and will allow you to back up the contents of your Psion to the hard drive on the PC (I've a Nimbus 486/33). It is easily installed and the greatest complication is ensuring that you have set up the speed of transmission at both ends to the same value. I have no problems using the 19200 baud rate. Also

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included with the link are files that enable you to save Psion wordprocessor files in rich text format (rtf), these will then read into Word for Windows etc. These filters need to be copied to the Psion across the link. Spreadsheet files can also be moved about - I've found that exporting from Excel in WKS format will then import into Psion Sheet satisfactorily. Address lists are best transferred as text files. You can easily reformat the Psion database headings and so personalise what you want to use. The version of the communications routines supplied with the link when I bought it was rather primitive, you do all the work with DOS like commands. However, I obtained RCOM102C.ZIP from 3-Lib and this, unsupported, pre-release product from Psion provided an automated means of backing up the 3a and an easy means of printing out via the PC. I have read recently that the software provided with the PC link has been upgraded - if it is at all similar to RCOM you will be delighted with it. Although RCOM and associated programs run under DOS, they operate through Windows happily and even have icons provided. I got the complete shareware library from 3-Lib but, apart from RCOM, have only loaded Tetris. I was unsuccessful in trying to get the London Underground map to load. More recently I bought version 1.1 of Winlink from Widget. This facilitates file transfer between the Psion and the PC, and back again, but also enables you to use the PC to tidy up the Psion files. They have a more updated version of this program which is supposed to offer better file transfer and backup facilities. Widget also do a program that links Agenda files to Lotus Organiser. My visit to BETT'95 was topped by the contents of the 'What PC? Master Disk' given with the February 1995 edition (bought to read on the way home). This contained a Series 3a emulator. At a stroke I didn't need need to buy Lotus Organiser. The emulator won't run under Windows but, if you ensure that it points to the subdirectories that RCOM backs up to, you can manipulate your 3a files on your PC and even work in full screen mode. You can even print these files directly from the emulator. It's also faster than the 3a! My Psion is now an essential part of my life - I would be lost with out it. The ability to search your diary for an entry, put in your teaching committments as a repeated entries, search (and even find) telephone numbers and addresses, and take notes at meetings and conferences has changed the way I work. It is no toy, and with the PC link enables efficient and effective work. I use an external power supply at my desk and batteries would appear to last at least 6 months - it uses more power when the PC link is turned on so it's wise to remember to turn it off when not in use. What am I trying to do now? - well apart from the pictures, I've yet to get the tone dialling system to work. Oh, and I have yet to change Psion sound recordings to .WAV format. If you are in doubt about buying a 3a you shouldn't be - they're wonderful! My Christmas present? - a leather case for my 3a of course! Some useful

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addresses: The cheapest source for the 3a seems to be DABS Direct on 0800 558866. If you register ownership you should get mailings directly from Psion - #25 will get you a subscription to their Gold support service. Widget produce several commercial packages for the Psion: Widget Software Ltd 121 London Road Knebworth Herts SG3 6EX Phone 01438 815444 Fax 01438 815222 Steve Litchfield at 3-Lib runs a shareware (and some commercial products) service: 3-Lib library 8 Grove Farm Mytchett Surrey GU16 6AQ Phone 01252 515431

Contact information: Neil Stanley SL in Educational Information Technology Liverpool John Moores University

Phone: 0151 231 5229 Email: N.R.STANLEY@LIVJM.AC.UK

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Big Al's False Alarm

Being suitably paranoid about viruses, not only do we instruct our students to virus check their disks if they have been used outside of the college, I also scan everywhere that they can write to on a regular basis. One evening last week it was rather quiet so I figured it would be easier, but a little slower, to scan the whole of the server's hard disk. I made a connection to C$ on the PDC and fired up DrSolomon's Findvirus.

Horror of horrors it reported a virus "like Uruguay 6" in C:\LANMAN\RPL.OLD\DOS\RPLOADR.COM, but nowhere else. It did the same on each of the servers, so I began to suspect that perhaps this wasn't a virus. After all they are supposed to spread and the book says that "Uruguay 6" is pretty infectious. It was even more suspicious since no-one has permissions for the directory concerned. I copied the file to a disk, checking both that disk and my hard disk afterwards. Next morning I rang the hotline and confirmed that the checksum on my files matched the one on their copies. RM use a different virus scanner and hadn't detected anything. Just to be sure I put the file on a standalone with DOS6.2 and used MS Anti-Virus to check it. Nothing! A telephone call to Solomon Systems brought the response "We think that we know about this one. Can you send us a copy?" This done, they were able to assure me that the program, it's an OS/2 file and part of the replicator system, looks very similar to the "Uruguay" virus's loader. What's the point to all of this? Well, if you use the good Doctor's Toolkit, install version 6.71 as soon as it arrives, if you must use DOS virus scanners on OS/2 drives keep them to DOS only directories, if a virus checker is any good it will occasionally mistake an innocent file for one that is infected, so never panic if you get a virus reported, just be very methodical in what-ever you do about it. And finally, if you don't already check for viruses, why not?

John Williams

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# RM Lan Manager Applications

## DESKTOP SELECTOR

Desktop Selector enables users to switch between different 'desktops' without the need to logoff. This helps with the overall efficiency of your network by reducing unnecessary network traffic.

## FONT MANAGER

We all know that 'TrueType' fonts are fantastic, when installed they allow the use of a wide range of decorative fonts for all situations from **WILD WEST** to **CHRISTMAS** to just plain WEIRD. However the availability of a large number of these fonts on a network present a very serious problem. If users are to load all font definitions automatically at log-on, the time taken to sign-on is increased considerably and network efficiency suffers dramatically. The answer to this problem is ***Font Manager.*** Font Manager consists of a suite of three windows applications which allow the use of your TrueType fonts in an efficient and sensible manner.

## Lan Mail

Many institutions have a need for an internal E-Mail system and although there are many such systems available, most are very expensive and only work for a limited number of users. Lan Mail is an internal E-Mail system and is a quality Windows product designed to run on RM Lan Manager 2 networks. For this type of application it is a relatively inexpensive software package and is able to work with a large number of users.
In this modern age where electronic communication is of growing importance it is essential for all students to be aware of E-Mail systems and to experience the use of such a system first-hand.

## *Price Guide*

| | |
|---|---|
| Desktop Selector ( per server ) | £ 35 |
| Font Manager ( per server ) | £ 75 |
| *Special Offer:* | |
| Desktop Selector and Font Manager together ( per server ) | £100 |
| Font Manager - standalone version ( per computer ) | £ 35 |
| Further licences for standalone version ( per computer ) | £ 5 |
| Lan Mail Server + 500 User Licence | £200 |
| Lan Mail Server + 1000 User Licence | £285 |
| Lan Mail Server + 1500 User Licence | £350 |
| Each additional 500 User Licence after 1500 Users | £ 50 |

*The purchase of any of the above 'Lan Mail' packs covers the complete site of the institution up to the specified number of users.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Upgrades after the initial purchase for each extra 500 User Licence | £ 85 |

This option requires you to return your 'Master Disk(s)'.

***Lan Mail minimum system requirements: 386/16sx 4Mb VGA Windows 3.1***

**NB** Lan Mail is still under development and is expected to be available during February 1995. Please call for availability.

Please note that although these prices include postage and packaging they exclude V.A.T.

MWA SOFTWARE, Helston School, Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 8NR. Telephone:(01326) 572133
Fax: (01326) 572183

# Upgrading

*by John Williams*

A couple of issues back we had some accounts of various people's experiences of having their system upgraded, so I thought that I'd put in my two penn'th. We started with one of the earlier NetLM servers. Once we had all gone through the learning curve (RM included), we were fairly certain the system was sound. Our second server in 1983 brought us some problems, mostly because we were still stuck with 16bit Ethernet cards. Having done my worst, in the early hours, to the NetLM 2.0 system that RM brought to Stevenage in November '93, I was sure that 32bit cards plus the new software were what we needed.

We were counting pennies and losing a lot of sleep in the early part of last year, when a little birdie whispered things about Z-net support for the new system. Salvation! we could just afford a new server, the upgrade and some new stations if we didn't have to convert our one Z-net segment. Orders were placed, a van hired and a huge pile of boxes collected in early August. A week later Andy Simmonds, he of BBS fame, arrived with a tape streamer and a huge case full of disks and tapes.

We had taken the precaution of copying everyone's directories onto the hard disks of various stations. This meant that we had three backups of all of our work, our tapes, Andy's tapes and the hard disks. It also meant that if a member of staff came in during the process, desperate to find a file, we just pointed them to the stations and the list's stuck on the screens. It took Andy three days to install the new system, the appropriate software bundles and our user directories. What he did to the station database was in the same white knuckle league as Alton Towers. I'm glad he knew what he was doing as it saved an awful lot of re configuring.

Did we have any problems? Not that you would notice.

Was it worth it? Definitely, I'm in danger of boring people with tales of how reliable our network is.

Do the users like it? I'm getting demands from people with stand alone computers in strange places to know when they can be put on the network.

Just to keep us on our toes the new system has generated a new set of trivial puzzles. You know the sort, you can't under stand why but it doesn't bother anyone, so you ignore it:-

Every so often a station stops acknowledging the "printing finished" messages from the server, (just a bleep on NetLM 2.x), and generates an error in the log. It will

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then continue doing this until the station is rebooted. I just flush the log every few days.

The Postscript driver is now too clever by half. It checks the descriptive label in WIN.INI to see what sort of Postscript printer you have, so any attempt to put in a useful description results in the most basic of facilities. Back to "Apple Laserwriter plus on LPT3" instead of "Postscript printer in room...."

The incidence of users log-offs not being noticed has increased, but stopping and re-starting the NETLOGON service, or temporarily giving them multiple log-on status both work. I have always assumed that this happens because in a commercial system if anything's going to get lowest priority it's someone going home at the end of the day.

*One of my favourite photos - roll on the day when I can just drop it in here off a CDROM - is of a very large and presumably expensive sign at the side of a road in Kenya announcing - "The Upgranding of the Eldama Ravine Road". I don't know why but I always think of it at moments like this!*

# RM User Group Training Weekend 1995

We have now booked the hotel for the next Training Weekend and have started to arrange the events. Please make a note in your diary of the date and start putting requests in for money from your Inset budget. As always, we would prefer to be steered by your requests. Any comments made on the feedback forms from the last one will be acted on if it is possible. Do you want more Inspection related issues to be covered? Please let any member of the committee know of your needs.

Date:- 20-22 October 1995, Venue:-Novotel, Nottingham Price:-£250 (provisional)

Nottingham is a busy city with lots to do both in the city and its environs for spouses/partners who are not interested in computers. Your partner can stay in your room (all rooms have double beds) for no extra charge although please note that the hotel will charge for any meals taken.

## STOP PRESS!

This event will now include the AGM due to change in constitution as of last AGM. Hopefully this will facilitate better communication.

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# Technical Tips

*Steve Sharrad*

**Double Trouble**

I have recently installed the DOS 6.2 DoubleSpace (virtually the same as DriveSpace which comes with DOS 6.22) program on my Notebook computer. The Notebook is a 386 with 4Mb of RAM. I have discovered a few tricks which you may find useful if you intend to run Double/Drivespace on any machine and run Windows.

If you have less than 2Mb of memory on a machine then Windows will not automatically run in 386 enhanced mode when you type WIN at the DOS prompt (you therefore have to force it by typing WIN /3) and runs incredibly slow. If you have 4Mb all well and good, but with any swap file the, if Windows is installed on the harddisk, then if you install DoubleSpace on the harddisk, it will modify the windows files to make the swap file relocate to the host, or uncompressed disk. This is because the compressed disk (normally C) is not very safe for the swap file. It seems to be okay if the swap file is only temporary, but a permanent swap file will shortly become corrupt.

With Windows, a permanent swap file is preferable, as it is faster, and means that, once it is created, you can never fill the harddisk to the extent that you no longer have the space for the swap-file. (Whereas, with a temporary swap-file, the file is created when Windows starts and is deleted when Windows ends. You may fill up your harddisk and then attempt to run Windows, and then Windows will not be happy because it has much less memory spare). When DoubleSpace is installed, it will probably leave a minimum amount of space on the host drive. If it hasn't, run the DoubleSpace program from the DOS prompt and decrease the amount of free space on the host drive. The minimum amount of free space is 0.46Mb. This means that the size of the host drive will be the size of the permanent swap file+0.46Mb+ a little space for the MSDOS system files. (Bearing in mind the smaller the amount left on the uncompressed or host drive, the larger the compressed drive). However, what happens if you fit more memory to your system and therefore want to proportionally increase the size of the swap file, or just want to increase the size of the swap file anyway?

If you go into the 386 Enhanced options under Control Panel, you will find that you cannot increase the space on the host (in fact, Windows may suggest you decrease the size because the host drive is so small). Therefore, you need to increase the size of the host disk. You can only do this if you have a reasonable amount of space left on the compressed disk. First of all, however, you will need to defrag the disk. This is done by selecting DEFRAG under the TOOLS menu on the main menu of the DoubleSpace program. This is done to consolidate your disk space, or in other words, to get all of the free space into one big lump on the compressed drive. (De fragmentation of compressed drives seldom speeds them up however;

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unless they are really fragmented). This means that you can increase the host drive as much as possible. Select to do this by pressing ENTER with the main menu highlight on the compressed drive. Then select SIZE and increase the size of the host drive. The larger the host drive, the larger the swap-file Windows will allow you to have on that drive. Now go into Control Panel under Windows, and select Virtual Memory settings under 386 enhanced settings. Note that we are not intending to make the swap-file fill the now obese host drive. Control panel will just allow you to have a bigger swap-file, as the size of the swap file control panel recommends is proportional to the size of the drive in total. If you have 4Mb of RAM, there is probably no need to have a swap file bigger than 7 or 8Mb. Remember to make the swap file permanent, and then close down Windows. Now run the DoubleSpace program again and reduce the size of the host drive back down to the minimum. This will be done by DoubleSpace asking you how much space you want left on the host drive - just enter 0.46. This amount is in addition to the space already being used on the host drive. This means that you now have a swap file larger than Windows would normally recommend for the size of the host drive. (This does not in general matter because it is not as if the host drive is being used for work or other programs). There should not be any problems running Windows. If you go back into the virtual memory settings, the recommended settings should not change. You will only have to repeat the process if you reduce the size of the swap file (or remove it from the host drive) and then try and increase it.

**It's been framed**

You may have noticed that my last article was missing a vital diagram. I've discussed this with David, our new Editor, and we are still not quite sure what happened! It should be here. I rather hope so, as I've lost the original cable from which the diagram was made - and I badly need the diagram to make another! I would like to take this opportunity to commend David on his first issue as it was put together very well.

**Windows 96.**

Pun intended. I was recently at an RM InSITE seminar. One of the things discussed at the seminar was Microsoft's upcoming - if not rather late - release of the next version of Windows. Apparently, the last beta release needed a minimum of 80Mb of disk space. It certainly won't be going anywhere near my harddisk for a while! IBM's OS/2 Warp seems to be much more promising. Some people say that some common Windows applications aren't compatible with it - however, programs like Word 6, CorelDraw 4, Access 2, Excel 5 and Publisher 2 have no problem whatsoever. In fact, IBM claim that OS/2 warp offers better Windows than Windows. I hope to have a better chance to look at warp in the near future. OS/2 Warp will probably also outperform Win 95 in speed and will not require an incredibly fast machine (Microsoft say Win 95 needs a minimum of a 386 SX 25).

As usual, if anybody has any technical problems or queries regarding any RM system, then please do not hesitate to contact me - my address/phone number should be in the back cover.

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# The Internet

*By D.M.Thomas*

I am a first year sixth form student studying at Claires Court School. I have had an internet connection at home though Demon using Mosaic and more recently Netscape for Linux. My school has just received a connection to the internet though the BBC Networking Club in a project sponsored by Dixons, PC World and Packard Bell. This connection has allowed the pupils of the school to access a wide range of information from the Klingon Language Institute at **http://www.kli.org/KLIhome.html** to information on stars for physics at **http://www.ei.brad.ac.uk/btl.** As well as allowing access to WWW pages and other internet sites it also allows the pupils to use the e-mail system. Pupils have made friends at the other schools in the project both here and in the US. It also allows sixth form history students to e-mail history professors at university or download information which can be used in coursework which counts towards the final grade. I am about to start a coursework on Vietnam and the information I will be able to access using the internet will be of great asset and help me a great deal. The other major resource of the Internet is newsgroups and these provide a good forum for discussion on many wide and varied topics, such as alt.alien.visitors or alt.censorship. It would be virtually impossible to find a newsgroup on a subject which did not interest someone in this school as there are so many of them. Already there is a waiting lists in operation as there has been so much interest in this project. Currently access times can be fairly slow and this does cause problems if large amounts of data are being downloaded or if a lot of sites needed to be searched before you find the information you need. Instead of using servers what is needed is direct access to the internet. Such as they have at universities who experience very quick data transfer times. When data transfer times speed up the internet will grow even quicker. At the moment there is currently a great deal of information about the internet in the media. There has been a lot of hype about the information super highway and the internet. The information superhighway is still in its infancy and is totally different to the internet. Unfortunately there is a great deal of misinformation with these programs. The internet is not full of hardcore porn or pirated software. Only a small minority of computers contain such information and not nearly every computer on the internet. The internet is an excellent tool to find out information and to enjoy looking for information on a hobby. It is something that children should be encourage and trained to use. The educational information on the internet will be of great use to them and they can be supervised if needed. They should not stopped due to scare stories about what children could download from a small minority of underground sites. Despite all this hype the internet connection will be a great asset to the school and pupils not only for the information it provides but also for the future. The internet is growing rapidly and in ten years time it will be part of common day life like the telephone. It is good that the pupils of this school have a chance to get ahead by learning how to use the internet.

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# Windows 3.1 on RM Net 3.1

*by Hugh Wilding*

Making Windows 3.1 available as a network option to users of Net 3.1 onwards is remarkably straightforward. There are, I believe, several ways of achieving this but the following describes a way which closely mimics the way in which Windows 3.0 is set up on Net 3.1 and which therefore saves valuable network management time. There are also obvious cost benefits from continuing to make use of your investment in a sound network system. You may need to acquire upgrade licenses to Windows 3.1 although my understanding of this issue is that network machines fitted with a multi-protocol boot rom (ie. since Summer 1992) are so licensed. Unfortunately, Windows 3.1 will not work with PC-186s. Sorry... Firstly, you will need a set of Windows 3.1 disks. Mine came from RM courtesy of the backup routine of an S-series 486. Make sure that the disks are write-protected as we don't want set-up information written to these. We are going to install 3.1 to drive Q: so a temporary access with full read, write etc rights is required. Do this at your server keyboard by typing directly SHARE XPUBLIC=C:\XPUBLIC /RWCDA. Next logon as a network manager at a station with both a local floppy drive and a mouse. At the MS-DOS prompt, turn off security by typing TOGGLE OFF (which ought to be in your manager's autoexec.bat file anyway but unless you put it there, isn't!). Now type in REUSEQ:\\SERVERX1\XPUBLIC. If your server is named differently eg. BILL then replace SERVERX1 with BILL. Test out the new connection by typing MD Q:\W31. If you get any sort of error message, deal with it as appropriate and retry. Finally, check that the AUTOEXEC.BAT file in the root of Q: is set to read only.

The installation is carried out as if you are a single user. Insert Disk #1, change to drive A:, and type in SETUP. Ignore the dire warning about APPEND.COM running and press C to continue. Then press Enter to set up Windows now. Choose the Custom set up by pressing C. You now need to alter various settings to read as they appear in Table 1 at the top of the next page. Setup now begins the process of installation and will ask for disks as required. Now is a good time to check those write-protection tabs are open! Midway through the second disk, Windows itself will be started. If your screen remains stubbornly blank but with a Windows-style egg-timer, this is because you didn't type in TOGGLE OFF and so the network security prevents the setup routine from "seeing" drive Q:. Reset your computer and start again! You are next asked for user details. This is your opportunity not to pin the blame for this blatant act of piracy where it fits eg. Educational Software Library/ Research Machines plc. but to follow the laid down software registration procedures of your own establishment eg. Mr Squeers/ Dotheboys Hall. The following screen is to determine the extent of your proposed installation so clear the check boxes against Set up all components and Set up applications already on Hard Disk(s) ie. the only box checked is Set Up Printers.

Now, please attend most carefully. You have arrived at a screen which asks about Virtual Memory. Virtual Memory is A Very Wonderful Thing but not for us because it does horrendous things with swapfiles etc. and will bring your network to a grinding halt so be warned. Click on Change then select Type to read None before clicking on Change again. Setup then informs you that

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Computer: MS-DOS System
Display:        VGA
Mouse:          Logitech
Keyboard: Enhanced 101 or 102 key US and Non US keyboard
Keyboard layout:   British
Language: English (International)
Network:  Microsoft Network (or 100% compatible)
```

**Table 1**

it has been unable to update system files on the floppy disk. Do not panic - click on Cancel as we want these files written to the Windows directory on Q: anyway. Continue to feed in disks and shortly you will be told that new CONFIG and AUTOEXEC files have been written to Q:. Set up your printers as you require, not forgetting to indicate which is your default. You will also see for the first time, the "truename" of your network printers when you make the necessary connections to your ports. Skip the Windows tutorial - you can come back to this at any time from Program Manager - and click on Exit to MS-DOS. You are almost done but not quite. Delete the CONFIG.WIN and AUTOEXEC.WIN files that you find in Q:\W31 as well as SMARTDRV.EXE. Smartdrive is already running on your server so is not required and its existence in this version is doubly confusing as the latter is almost certainly v4.x and will NOT run under MS-DOS v4. Make sure you are still in Q:\W31 and type WIN. You will now be rewarded by the "new" Logo screen that others have enjoyed since 1992. When the new Program Manager appears, select Control Panel from the Main program group. This now enables you to carry out any customisation that you want globally for all your users. You can set colours, install extra fonts and even the speaker driver for 3.1 that you may have access to etc. but there are a couple of checks first to be made. Click on International and marvel at the genius of Microsoft. Despite all of our best efforts, you will need to setup United Kingdom as the Country. Do this and Measurement will change to Metric automatically as will the various other formats to the proper, British way of doing things. Also make sure that in Desktop, the box against Fast "Alt+Tab" Switching is checked. Exit Windows again. We now want to save our .INI and .GRP files away safely against the proverbial so RMTREE COPY*.INI NET\SETUP. It is also a good idea to make these saved copies read-only so do ATTRIB +R NET\SETUP*.*. Run FIXPMINI to remove unwanted references to Q:\W31. No Save settings on exit ([Restrictions] in PROGRAM.INI) LogiMouse settings seem not to be a problem (Windows copes with PS/2 and serial mice irrespective of settings - or is this the Logitech driver? in which case do readers have latest versions?) Copy win.com into net\subdirs. Although Windows Setup has been used to create a typical (386) user, when win.com runs, it will auto adjust for machine type eg. M series 286 will be in standard mode.

It is possible to upgrade free to Net 3.1d/2 by logging onto RM BBS.

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# *Your* Magazine

*I make no apologies for leaving this page as it is since I agree with every word!*

I really do welcome items for the magazine from anyone. You don't have to be a great writer to send something in; send a letter or a short tip for the Hints and Tips pages, everything is welcome. If you want to phone and talk something over then please do; even if you aren't sure how to write something down then I can always include your ideas in Hints and Tips or as a plea for help; some of you will recognise your phone calls on the Hints and Tips pages!

I would be particularly pleased to hear from the people who are using RM computers at home; there are quite a lot of you out there. Some of you will be experienced at working with computers and I would be interested to know why you chose RM for home use. Others will have responded to RM's advertising, perhaps because your children use the same computers at school. How are you getting on with your new machine? Did you have any problems getting started? It doesn't matter if you still don't know the answer to the problem- this is how you'll find out - and it doesn't matter if you think that your problem was trivial; remember that there are many other people who are going to be in exactly the same position as you and will welcome the help that you can give.

If you are writing for me then the ideal is to send me a disc produced using Word or Word for Windows but I can cope with any word processor that runs on a PC or Nimbus (I think). If what you are sending is short then a letter on good old fashioned paper is fine. I can also accept articles left on the bulletin board - the easiest way to to do this is to prepare your article in a word processor and save it normally. You then send a short e-mail to me and attach your file to it when you are on-line. It's actually easier to do than to describe because the whole thing is menu driven.

Finally, we pay for published articles at the rate of £5 per printed page (although all payments are at the Editor's discretion).


## Advertising in the Magazine

Full and half page advertisements can be placed in the magazine and details can be obtained from the Advertising Manager. We also take classified ads and members may place free ads for surplus equipment in MicroMart.

**Rates**

Back Cover **£60** Inside Cover **£50** Full Page **£30** Half Page **£20**

These rates assume black-on-white, camera ready copy. Please avoid dot-matrix output. Typesetting is charged at cost and is additional to the above rates. Please make cheques payable to *RM User Group*


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## Membership Form

Please use capitals

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Job title (if appropriate) .....

Address .....

.....

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Postcode .....

I enclose a cheque payable to RMUG/order for £18. If you are not enclosing a cheque then please send an official order, indicating clearly to whom the invoice should be sent.

In order to serve our members better we like to know something about them and what they do with their computers. The information you give is confidential and we are registered as Data Users under the Data Protection Act.

Are you involved in education?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, with what age range do you work:

below 11 ☐ 11-18 ☐ 18+ ☐

Do you use a computer at home?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please send your form and payment to:

**RMUG, FREEPOST, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0BR**

You may photocopy this form if you do not wish to cut your magazine.

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